

ABSTRACT

WA-I-260

1840

Reiff's Mennonite Church

Maugansville-Cearfoss Vicinity

private

Reiff's Mennonite Church, known earlier as Witmer's Meeting House was built in 1840. The story and a half brick structure was, however, rebuilt twice, in 1891 and again in 1928. A Mennonite Church, the building serves a large religious group who are particularly numerous in north central Washington County. Almost without exception Mennonite families, members of a plain religious sect founded in Germany, migrated from Pennsylvania.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-I-260

District 13

Map 24

Parcel 493

2202464408

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Witmer's Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

Reiff's Mennonite Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Reiff's Church Road, south side.

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Maugansville-Cearfoss

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
PUBLIC ACQUISITION  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
ACCESSIBLE  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees of Reiff's Mennonite Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route # 6

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: UU

Folio #: 792

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

WA-I-260

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED > 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Reiff's Mennonite Church is located on the south side of Reiff's Church Road between Cearfoss and Maugansville in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on an area of fairly level ground and faces north.

The church is a large brick structure, three bays wide at the gable ends and nine bays in length. It is one and a half stories high. Resting on concrete sheathed foundations, it employs all stretcher brickwork. A datestone set in the northeast corner of the building indicates that the church was built in 1840, rebuilt in 1891 and again rebuilt in 1928.

Windows appear to be spaced evenly in the walls. All openings are topped with segmental arches. All windows have shutters with their upper portions louvered and the lower sections paneled. The main entrance is centered in the north end wall. The double doors are topped with a high transom, almost half the height of the door.

A small brick chimney is located inside the north end wall. A second chimney extends from the interior of the building near its south end. The roof is sheathed with slates.

The cemetery is located southeast of the church. The church and cemetery contain less than five acres.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1840, rebuilt 1891, rebuilt 1928. BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reiff's Mennonite Church, known earlier as Witmer's Meeting House was built in 1840. The story and a half brick structure was, however, rebuilt twice, in 1891 and again in 1928. A Mennonite Church, the building serves a large religious group who are particularly numerous in north central Washington County. Almost without exception Mennonite families, members of a plain religious sect founded in Germany, migrated from Pennsylvania.

According to T.J.C. Williams' History of Washington County, the original Reiff's Church, built in 1840 was a stone structure "in which the congregation worshipped until its walls gave way in 1862 or 1863."<sup>1</sup>

The land on which the church stands was conveyed to the Trustees of the Society and Congregation of Menonist's by John and Susanna Witmer in 1840.

<sup>1</sup> T.J.C. Williams, History of Washington County. Vol. I, Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., (1906) p. 514.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 5 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

DATE

**March 1977**

STREET & NUMBER

**County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street**

TELEPHONE

**791-3065**

CITY OR TOWN

**Hagerstown**

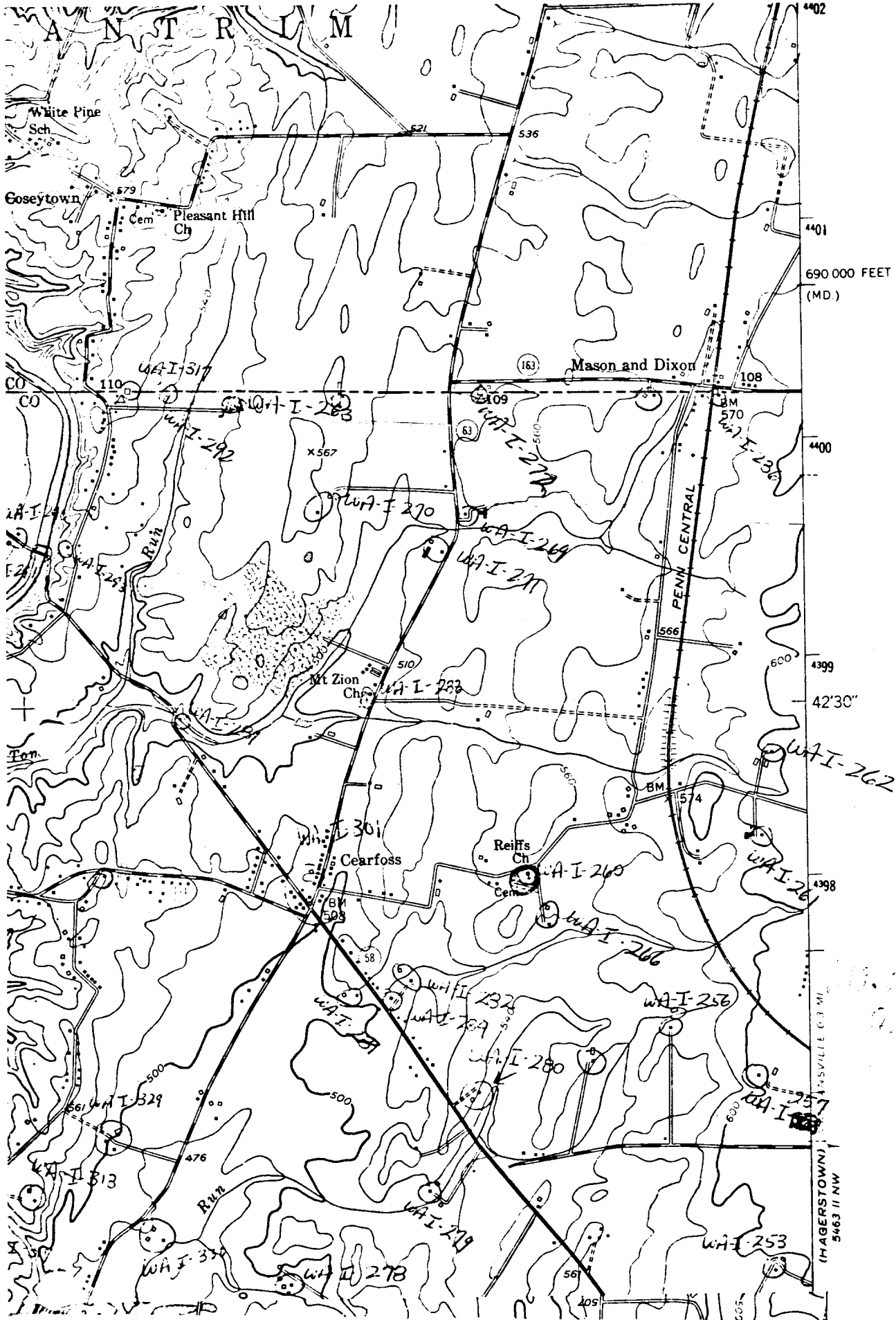
STATE

**Maryland 21740**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



WA-I-260



WA. T. 200.

N. 14.

1/10/1912

WITMER'S MEETING HOUSE  
(REIFF'S MENNONITE CHURCH)

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





Wm. S. Dickey  
Consultant, Washington Co.  
Nov. 1972

WITMER'S MEETING HOUSE  
(REPP'S MENNONITE CHURCH)

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY